



Natomas Oral Histories

2015/027

Oral interview of

Jeanette “Jeanie” Scott

March 30, 1998

Interviewer: Coey Sipes

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This is not a verbatim transcript. Parts of the interview have been paraphrased.

Jeanie: Right here in the Natomas area since 1960-1961. Ok?

Coey: When were you born?

Jeanie: 1914, in March. I just had a birthday.

Coey: Really? Happy Birthday.

Jeanie: Thank you.

Coey: Do you have any brothers or sisters around in Natomas still?

Jeanie: No. I have a sister in Robla and a brother in Danville.

Coey: Ok. What memories do you have of growing up as a young child in Natomas?

Jeanie: In Natomas? I wasn't a child when I moved here.

Coey: Ok, as a young adult?

Jeanie: Adult? Oh, we had nice times. Big gardens. We fished and bowled. Gardening, landscaping.

[00:00:51]

Coey: What language was spoken in your home while you were growing up?

Jeanie: Lebanese and English. Two languages. Ok?

Coey: Alright. Just a few more questions. Were any cultural customs, traditions maintained? What did you enjoy? Do you keep your family's country of origin today?

Jeanie: My language sometimes, if I'm with my sister close by. I've almost forgotten all of it.

Coey: Who were some of the neighbors you associated with living in Natomas?

Jeanie: What honey?

Coey: Who were some of the neighbors you talked to?

Jeanie: Hope, across the street — Hope Hagger, Kathleen Altheizer, Libby, Gonzales, Sanchez, the Birds, Lillian Canock. *[Referring to the list of questions]* Oh, you can't see, honey. What is this supposed to refer to — "sidewalks"?

Coey: Here, let me see.

Jeanie: Oh, the sidewalks came in later. The streets and sidewalks. Sewers — when we bought the lot we weren't connected yet. I dug the sewer line from the house down to the street. That's 1959-1960.

[00:02:21]

Coey: How were the roads?

Jeanie: Well they were just ruffage. Just roads. No walks. We didn't have any walks.

Coey: How were the streets named?

Jeanie: The same. Just the same.

Coey: Do you remember about the Natomas Company? RD 1000?

Jeanie: Oh, yes. We would get mail from them. We pay our bills; we pay them the 1000. *[Laughter]* Not the utility bill — what is that called? We would send them a check every month or every other month.

Coey: Do you remember any laws that were passed that you or your neighbors felt were unfair? Like regarding animals—

Jeanie: I've got animals. I have a dog and two cats. I had a couple of horses here before they annexed.

Coey: So, you thought that was unfair? You had to get rid of your horses?

Jeanie: Yes, when they annexed, yes. It was the city then. Before, we had a lot of room where we could go. There was more fields where we could go. Toward El Camino, there was all fruit trees. Peach trees. We could go and pick some peaches, you know. It was just like country. Ranch.

[00:03:53]

Coey: How did you and your family and your neighbors react to Sacramento? Was it a big deal? Or did you go to other cities for entertainment?

Jeanie: We would go to Frisco. We used to go to Kansas, Oklahoma. I toured my home state of Wisconsin. I was there last year. I've been here over 50 years, over half of my life.

Coey: Ok. What did you and your family do for entertainment here?

Jeanie: Well, we had a lot of company. When we entertained we always set out foods.

Coey: So, you had big parties?

Jeanie: Especially here.

Unidentified female in background: You have a nice piece of property here!

Jeanie: I know, honey. I had it real nice in the back. We had big parties here. We had a big garden. We would give food to everyone.

[00:04:52]

Coey: Did you know about some of the names around here? Did you know Bannon Creek used to be called Brannon Creek?

Jeanie: Why, I've heard about Bannon Creek. Did it change?

Coey: Yes.

Jeanie: No, I don't get around much anymore. My husband just passed away.

Coey: Oh, I'm sorry. *[Female in background offers Kleenex]*

Jeanie: *[Tearfully]* Thank you. It only lasts for a minute.

Coey: What would you like to tell others about life in Natomas?

Jeanie: What do I like about it here? I like it because we had clubs here at Stanford Settlement. We go twice a month. I belonged to the Grandmothers Club, until my husband got sick. I belong to the Coffee Club. We would go to McDonalds on Wednesday and have breakfast. We would play bingo, go on bus trips. I like it. You know, just the usual everyday stuff. When you retire, then you enjoy life. But you don't enjoy it too much when your better half is gone.

Coey: Oh, I'm sorry. Would you like to say your name?

Jeanie: Jeanie Scott.

Coey: Ok, thank you.